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**General Assembly**

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

*Official Records*

FIFTH COMMITTEE  
2nd meeting  
held on  
Wednesday, 26 September 1990  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. MAYCOCK

(Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and  
Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

1. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the members of the Committee, the observers, the representatives of the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies, and the representatives of the staff associations. He drew attention to document A/C.5/45/5, containing the list of agenda items allocated to the Committee. The Committee would have to deal with a broad variety of matters, including the financial functioning of the Organization and programme budget questions; the financing of peace-keeping and other operations; personnel questions; the administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency; and the United Nations common system and United Nations pension system.

2. While it was natural to expect that there would be a diversity of views on those subjects, the members of the Committee had always shown the will to work together towards mutually acceptable results. The need for consensus had been an essential aspect of the reform process, and he saw his role as one of harmonizing the views of all delegations.

3. A new era was beginning in the work of the Organization, and that of the Committee in particular. In the administrative and management area, considerable progress had been made in the implementation of the reforms decided on by the General Assembly. In view of the international community's increased expectations with regard to the United Nations and the greater demands being made on its limited resources, the Committee should give serious consideration to the most efficient and effective ways of managing the Organization's budgetary and human resources. With the politics of ideological division largely behind them, the members of the Committee could begin to approach those tasks in a new and co-operative spirit.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

4. The CHAIRMAN said that there were currently three nominations for the two posts of Vice-Chairman and no nominations for the office of Rapporteur. Consultations were continuing and, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to defer the matter until a later meeting.

5. It was so decided.

**ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/45/250; A/C.5/45/5; A/C.5/45/L.1)**

6. The CHAIRMAN referred to document A/C.5/45/5, relating to the allocation of items to the Fifth Committee, in which the Committee's attention was drawn to the recommendations of the General Committee on the organization of the session contained in document A/45/250, section II. In particular, the Committee should note recommendation 3 (a) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, which the General Committee had reproduced in its recommendations and

(The Chairman)

which referred to the need to utilize fully available services, as well as the recommendations on the schedule of meetings. With respect to the recommendations relating to the programme budget (para. 16), he noted that a deadline of 1 December had been set for submission to the Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications. The Committee should consider the possibility of accepting without debate the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the financial implications of draft resolutions up to a limit of \$25,000 on any one item. He recommended that all delegations should familiarize themselves with document A/45/250, section II, and with General Assembly decision 34/401 relating to the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly.

7. He proposed that the list of speakers on an item should be closed 48 hours following its introduction, that statements should be made in the order in which delegations were inscribed, that representatives who were not present when they were due to speak should go to the end of the list for the day, and that the Rapporteur should be authorized to report directly to the General Assembly on all items considered, unless, in a particular case, the Committee should decide to include a summary of the debate in its report.

8. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

9. It was so decided.

10. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the tentative schedule of work, which was in the form of a chart. In the preparation of the schedule, account had been taken of the availability of documentation, the availability of Committee Chairmen and the distribution of the work-load throughout the session. Note should be taken of document A/C.5/45/L.1, relating to the status of documentation of the Fifth Committee.

11. As the final days of the session would be overburdened with items which, for various reasons, could not be considered earlier, he urged all delegations to make their statements on agenda items as quickly as possible, so as to enable the Committee to complete its general debate and proceed to informal consultations.

12. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) said that, as a member of a small delegation, he was concerned that many documents for the session had not yet been issued. He hoped that the Chairman would take that fact into account when making adjustments to the schedule of work.

13. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba) said that it appeared from the tentative schedule of work that agenda items 129 to 134 would all be dealt with in a single day.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee should endeavour to deal with those items as quickly as possible during the week indicated. He assured the representative of Uganda that the scheduling of discussions would be approached with the greatest flexibility.

15. Mr. LADJOUZI (Algeria) said that he agreed with the comments concerning the availability of documentation, and he urged the Secretariat to intensify its efforts to issue the documents in time for the discussion of the various agenda items.

16. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) wondered whether it was appropriate to delay consideration of agenda items 120 and 121, relating to the current financial crisis of the United Nations and the financial emergency of the United Nations, until relatively late in the session. He suggested that the members of the Committee should be informed about the situation in that regard early in their deliberations.

17. Mr. GUPTA (India) recalled that, at its previous session, the General Assembly had suggested that the question of the financial emergency of the United Nations should be considered early in the session rather than at the end, when the Committee would not be able to give it full attention. He therefore requested the Chairman to consider rescheduling the discussion of that item.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that, to the extent possible, agenda items 120 and 121 would be taken up at an earlier date than indicated in the tentative programme of work.

**AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

**(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (A/45/101/Add.1)**

19. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document A/45/101/Add.1, in which the Secretary-General stated that he had received notification of the resignation of Mr. Christopher R. Thomas (Trinidad and Tobago) from membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Accordingly, the General Assembly would be required at its current session to appoint a person to fill the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Thomas, in other words, until 31 December 1991. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago had nominated Mr. Louis A. Wiltshire to fill the vacancy. The candidate's curriculum vitae appeared in the annex to the document under consideration.

20. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to dispense with the secret ballot and recommend by acclamation the appointment of Mr. Wiltshire to fill the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Thomas.

21. It was so decided.

22. The CHAIRMAN said that, since a Rapporteur for the Fifth Committee had not yet been elected and in view of the need to submit a report on the matter without delay, he took it that the Committee wished to authorize him, as Chairman, to submit the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

23. It was so decided.

## OPENING STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

24. Mr. AHTISAARI (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that in his annual report on the work of the Organization, the Secretary-General had emphasized that the United Nations had reached a historic point in its development. It was beginning to fulfil the ambitious expectations of those who had drafted the Charter. Many new missions had been placed in the field and the Secretary-General and his colleagues were fully exercising their role of good offices and peace-making. Their success might lead to many new United Nations initiatives in the field of conflict resolution, peace-making, and the protection of the principles of self-determination and human rights. Those developments reflected a major transformation of the operational role of the United Nations. While such matters lay squarely within the political sphere, they would also have far-reaching consequences for administration, finance, the budget and personnel and in general areas of logistic and organizational support.

25. The Secretary-General had, on many occasions, emphasized that the Organization's principal asset was its staff. The essence of good administration and management was to make the best possible use of that resource in order to deliver programmes in the most efficient and effective manner. That was why the Secretary-General attached so much importance to the conditions of service in the Secretariat. As he had pointed out, the United Nations had fallen seriously behind in the level of remuneration that it offered and was, in many fields, no longer financially competitive. That undesirable situation affected the Organization's capacity to deliver results and weakened the morale of the staff.

26. It was deeply disturbing that at a time when increased demands were being placed on the Organization, reflecting the greater confidence of the international community in it, the financial situation remained so uncertain. To date, less than half of the Member States had paid their full assessed contributions to the regular budget; the result was a shortfall of some \$643 million. Furthermore, Member States still owed \$436 million in extrabudgetary funds for peace-keeping. He once again urged delegations to give the most serious attention to the implications of that situation. The time was fast approaching when the Secretary-General might have to tell Member States that, because of the financial situation, he would be unable to implement an essential proposal for peace and conflict resolution.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.